

BACK TO PRABHUPADA

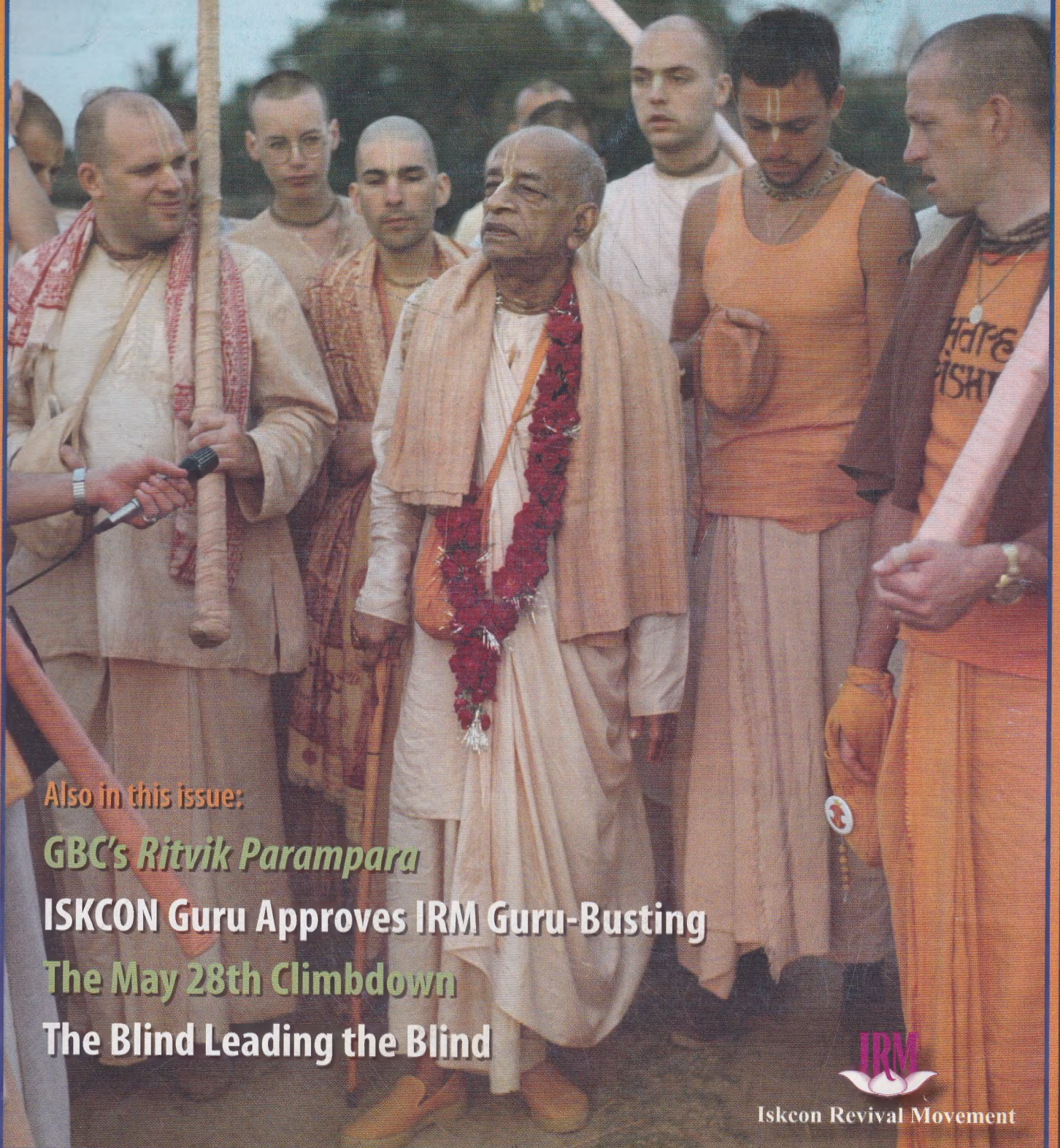
The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 35, Spring 2012

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

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ISKCON's Parallel World



Also in this issue:

GBC's Ritvik Parampara

ISKCON Guru Approves IRM Guru-Busting

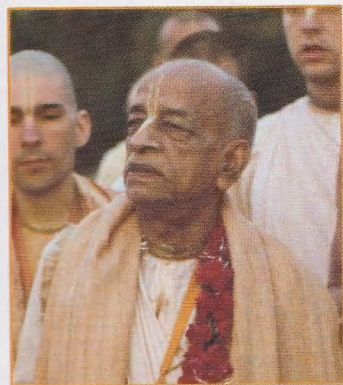
The May 28th Climbdown

The Blind Leading the Blind



Iskcon Revival Movement

Philosophical Principles v. Personal Preference



BACK TO PRABHUPADA

Published quarterly

Founded under the inspiration of **His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada**, Founder-Acarya, International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

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Welcome to Issue 35 of *Back To Prabhupada* (BTP).

Srila Prabhupada wrote:

"Religion without philosophy is sentiment, or sometimes fanaticism."

(*Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, 3.3, purport)

Yet, the GBC's deviant positions have all been characterised by their application of reasoning based on personal preferences rather than by the application of philosophical principles. At the heart of their *diksa* guru policies that attempt to remove Srila Prabhupada as ISKCON's *diksa* guru is their invention of the following "rule":

"Though the diksa guru never needs to have any physical interaction with the disciple, and can be physically absent for the whole of the disciple's life, only at the exact moment of initiation does the guru need to be momentarily present at a distance no greater than the diameter of the planet on which the initiation takes place."

But there is no philosophical principle stated by Srila Prabhupada which mandates that the current *acarya* ceases to be so simply by virtue of his physical absence. Rather, this "rule" has simply been concocted due to the personal preference to become guru and thereby fulfil desires for profit, adoration and distinction. This pursuit to become guru at any cost rather than follow philosophical principles is evidenced by the GBC's adoption of a series of contrived, contradictory positions:

1) First they claimed that Srila Prabhupada ordered 11 men to become *diksa* guru successors.

("Great Guru Hoax, Part 1")

2) Then they claimed that these 11 men were not ordered to be guru, but that this did not matter, since no order is required, and anyone and everyone can become guru through the "law of disciplic succession". ("Great Guru Hoax, Part 2")

3) Then we were told that this "law of disciplic succession" was not a "law" at all, and that it is fine for the disciples of gurus to also become gurus in their spiritual master's physical presence.

4) Then, all of their previous positions were ditched, and instead they claimed that the actual authority for guru succession came due to "implicit intent". (GBC Resolution 409, 2004, resulting from an analysis by HH Jayadvaita Swami, 13/12/2003).

5) Currently, we have what is a "label hoax" whereby the IRM's position has effectively been adopted in toto, but with the position of "ritvik" redefined as a *diksa* guru (for the guru hoaxers), and the position of a *diksa* guru redefined as a "siksa guru" (for Srila Prabhupada).

In contrast, the IRM's position does not depend on personal preference, but on the application of philosophical principles:

a) That all action must proceed on the authority of the guru's order.

b) The order must be in evidence, rather than assumed.

c) That we do not add to or subtract anything from this.

This is the IRM's POP (Prabhu-

pada-Only Paradigm), which is based on the following:

"The order of the spiritual master is the active principle in spiritual life."

(*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta*, *Adi-lila*, 12:10)

And due to the GBC's position being based on personal preferences rather than philosophy, it is plagued with sentiment and fanaticism, just as we quoted Srila Prabhupada stating. There exists the sentiment that anyone and everyone can be guru as long as they have not been caught breaking the regulative principles such as eating meat etc., in the previous 5 years, and they get the required "no objection" votes - regardless of the fact that no authorisation exists for this from Srila Prabhupada. And that, regardless of their qualification, such persons must then be worshipped and regarded as good as God by the disciple (see *ISKCON Law-book*). This is coupled with the fanaticism of death threats and violence against IRM supporters, even though the guru hoax now effectively relies on using the same arguments that the IRM has used (with merely the labels changed).

Hence, no differences between the IRM and GBC would exist if the GBC replaced their personal preferences with philosophy.

Please feel free to write to me at the following email address: irm@iskconirm.com.

Thank you and Hare Krishna.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Krishnakant

IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14, 1977, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *diksa* guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *diksa* guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page to order your free copy.

GBC's Ritvik Parampara

In the last issue we detailed the resignation by **Prabhavisnu Das ("PD")** from his guru and *sannyasa* positions. The GBC has now passed resolutions regarding the status of those who had their initiations conducted by PD, and they further confirm that their understanding of the initiation system in ISKCON is actually akin to that of a *ritvik* initiation system.

Ritvik initiation system

During Srila Prabhupada's physical presence many devotees had an initiation conducted by someone other than Srila Prabhupada, henceforward denoted as the "person conducting the initiation" (PCI). This initiation's characteristics were:

a) The initiates would trace their connection to the *parampara* (disciplic succession) via Srila Prabhupada, and not through the PCI, who was not a member of the *parampara*.

b) Even if the initiate subsequently had no contact with the PCI, the initiate advanced in Krishna consciousness by taking shelter of Srila Prabhupada and other senior devotees in ISKCON.

This initiation system was formalised by Srila Prabhupada on July 9, 1977, shortly before he departed from the planet, whereby now "*ritviks*" were appointed to oversee it by accepting the disciples on behalf of Srila Prabhupada.

"Guru" function only ceremonial

The GBC has now confirmed that anyone who got initiated by PD is considered to be connected to Srila Prabhupada and the *parampara*, even though PD himself is not in the *parampara*:

"Those devotees initiated by Prabhavisnu Das continue to be connected to Srila Prabhupada and our entire Vaisnava parampara."

(GBC Resolution 311, 2012)

They have further stated that

these persons are able to carry on Krishna consciousness by taking shelter of Srila Prabhupada and other ISKCON devotees:

"Thus, they are encouraged to take shelter of Srila Prabhupada and siksa gurus or other senior devotees as per their faith."

(GBC Resolution 311, 2012)

And, in the case of the initiations conducted by another so-called ISKCON "guru", **Umapati Das ("UD")**, who, like PD, is also not considered a member of the *parampara*, UD was not required to have any special position even when he conducted the initiations:

"Umapati prabhu had misused his status as a guru to behave inappropriately with several male disciples over a number of years and that this behavior was of a sexual nature. [...] ISKCON will not recognize initiations given by Umapati Dasa after February 2010. Devotees initiated prior to this date are accepted as duly initiated members of ISKCON."

(GBC Statements from GBC meetings, 2010 and 28/2/2011)

All of the initiations that UD carried out before 2010 are considered to have connected the initiates to the *parampara*, even though during this period UD is deemed to have behaved "inappropriately", with the behaviour being of a "sexual nature". Thus, these ISKCON "gurus" fulfilled no more than the ceremonial role of conducting an initiation.

GBC's ritvik parampara

Thus, the GBC has confirmed that one is connected to the *parampara* through an initiator who fulfils a function that is no different to a *ritvik* initiator:

a) He connects the initiate to Srila Prabhupada and the *parampara*, but he himself is not in the *parampara*;

b) Even when he delivered the

initiation he did not require any special qualification;

c) The initiator is not required as a "living guru" for the initiate - who instead takes shelter of Srila Prabhupada and other senior devotees to actually advance in Krishna consciousness.

Previously, especially in the 1980s, if an ISKCON "guru" was considered to have "fallen" from his status as guru, the initiate was encouraged to take re-initiation, so that he would be connected to the *parampara* through a "bona fide spiritual master" who was supposedly in the *parampara*. Consequently, we find today there are devotees who may be on their 3rd or even their 4th ISKCON guru. However, with their recent resolutions, the GBC has now accepted that one can be connected to the *parampara* through Srila Prabhupada via a person who himself is not in the *parampara*, nor in the life of the initiate, nor who necessarily had any special spiritual qualifications at the time of the initiation - i.e. a *ritvik*.

And, as we reported in the last issue (please see "Creating a deviant *parampara*"), unless one accepts the *ritvik* reality of these ini-

tiations, we end up creating a deviant "invisible" *parampara*, whereby initiates are considered to be connected to the *parampara* via an "invisible man" who is himself not in the *parampara*.

The diagram above illustrates this "*ritvik*" *parampara* that recent GBC resolutions have established.

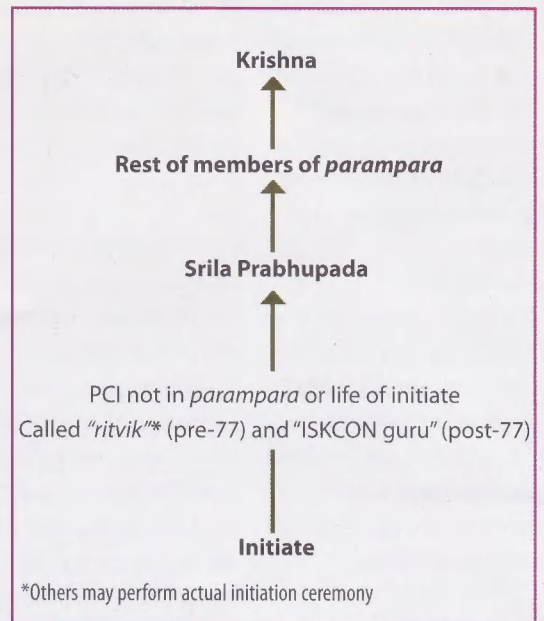
Conclusion

1) The GBC accepts that the initiate is connected to the *parampara* through Srila Prabhupada via an initiation that has the same characteristics as a *ritvik* initiation; the PCI is not in the *parampara*, nor in the life of the initiate.

2) Thus, the ISKCON "guru" is not required to fulfil any spiritual function other than that of a *ritvik*.

3) Therefore, the ISKCON guru system - in which the *ritvik* initiators are deliberately mislabelled as *diksa* gurus, whilst the real *diksa* guru Srila Prabhupada is deliberately mislabelled as being only a *siksa* guru - only exists in order to provide an opportunity for these *ritvik* initiators to be worshipped as good as God and procure enjoyment facilities for PAD (Profit, Adoration and Distinction).

Constructing initiate's parampara diagram



The Blind Leading

This year's GBC resolutions state: **"That the Governing Body Commission recommends that all prospective disciples and aspiring initiates attend the ISKCON Disciple Course prior to their initiation, preferably before choosing an initiating spiritual master."**

(GBC resolution 305, 2012)

Such a course for prospective disciples has been run every year by ISKCON UK from its HQ at **Bhaktivedanta Manor ("BM")**. It is presented partly by GBC-elected guru **HG Kripamoya Das ("KMD")**, and excerpts from it are presented in the shaded boxes below.

Srila Prabhupada is the guru - 1

"The spiritual master is the via media. You do not have direct access to Krishna. That's what Rupa Goswami is saying in the 64 items (Nectar of Devotion). You need someone that will introduce you to Krishna and that's the spiritual master."

This correctly states that the spiritual master is the person who takes you to Krishna. And ISKCON guru **HH Bhakti Charu Swami** states that this person is Srila Prabhupada, and not the ISKCON guru:

"I cannot lead you to Krsna. [...] Srila Prabhupada will take you to Krsna [...] Srila Prabhupada, as the pre-eminent *acarya*, takes you to Krsna and engages you in His service."

(HH Bhakti Charu Swami, *Istagosthi*, 28/3/2006, 10/6/2007, 7/4/2006)

Indeed, course presenter KMD himself states the same:

"And certainly we are all depending on Srila Prabhupada to intercede with Krishna so that we can attain His shelter."

(KMD, *The Vaishnava Voice*, 6/5/2007)

Thus, Srila Prabhupada, and not the GBC-elected ISKCON guru, should be accepted as one's spiritual master.

Srila Prabhupada is the guru - 2

"He is a self-realised person [...] 'The qualification of a bona fide guru is that he has realised the conclusions of the scriptures by deliberation and is able to convince others of these conclusions.' [...] So here in the *Bhagavatam* it's saying that he must be able to convince others about this argument, and Prabhupada you saw throughout."

This correctly states that the spiritual master is an *uttama-adhikari*, for a *madhyama-adhikari* is one *"whose conclusive knowledge of the sastras is not very strong"* (*Nectar of Instruction*, Text 5, purport), and ISKCON UK presents Srila Prabhupada as an *uttama-adhikari*. Whereas we know from ISKCON guru and *Sannyasa* Minister, HH Prahladananda Swami, that no ISKCON guru satisfies this qualification:

"Such an *uttama-adhikari* Vaisnava is in perfect touch with the Supersoul and at every moment knows the Supreme Lord's desires."

(*Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON*, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

"If the GBC Body sees someone as a self-effluent *acarya* who is completely aware of the Supersoul and Srila Prabhupada's desires and instructions they can and should follow his/her instructions. No one so far has been seen in that category."

(Prahladananda Swami, Wed, 30 Aug 2006 14:32 +0300)

Srila Prabhupada is the guru - 3

"Srila Prabhupada has a very special position. He is the pre-eminent *siksa* guru for all time within ISKCON. [...] Normally the *siksa* guru becomes the *diksa* guru, that's what Prabhupada says."

So we are given yet another reason why Srila Prabhupada should be chosen as the *diksa* guru over a GBC-elected ISKCON guru.

Initiation not traditional

"the Vaisnava tradition increased over the years, through its history the process of initiation changed [...] Bhaktivinoda Thakur [...] changed many, many things. And Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura [...] He's the first person in line in fact who gave initiation to those that were unbrahminical families [...] Bhaktisiddhanta had two disciples in Germany – first ever Western disciples – and one lady [...] and he never met this lady, nor did he meet the German disciples, never met them, but he initiated them through post and they accepted him. So he started something quite phenomenal."

We are told that the initiation system used historically was continually changing, unprecedented, and did not even require physical interaction between the guru and disciple. Given this, one cannot use tradition as a valid reason for rejecting the *ritvik* initiation system - and therefore Srila Prabhupada as the *diksa* guru.

"Living" guru not required

"the spiritual master may only meet you once a year perhaps. [...] But you're not communicating with him on a daily basis. So how will you advance in your spiritual life? So *siksa* is a very important principle in spiritual life, with the guide and mentor that you have is regularly in touch with you, helping you on a daily basis. [...] But in terms of direct, personal instruction – you know, I'll be lucky if I get a minute. I'll be lucky if I get a smile."

We are told that the ISKCON guru will hardly ever interact with his disciple, nor will he provide the personal guidance required for the disciple to advance spiritually. Given this, one cannot use the need for the guru to be physically present as a valid reason for

rejecting Srila Prabhupada as the *diksa* guru.

Srila Prabhupada a valid choice

"There is no list of ISKCON gurus that you have to select a person from. [...] So, it's not exactly top-down, that you have to get initiated by a person who's somewhere on a list. [...] you want to be initiated, 'but I don't want to be in ISKCON. I want it to be a guru outside ISKCON'. Obviously we recommend that it should be a guru in ISKCON, but you have your choices, you have your choices and that's fine."

It is claimed that there is no "list" of ISKCON GBC authorised gurus from which one must select a *diksa* guru, and that one can even select a person outside ISKCON, and whatever choice one makes is "fine". Given this blanket declaration, ISKCON should not object if a person decides to choose Srila Prabhupada as *diksa* guru, rather than a GBC-elected ISKCON guru.

So, having offered reasons for why Srila Prabhupada should be selected as one's guru, the course also offers several reasons for why there is no problem with such a choice, as it destroys all the main arguments that are commonly put forward in ISKCON as to why one cannot accept Srila Prabhupada as one's *diksa* guru. Yet, in line with its very purpose, most of the course deals with preparing ISKCON recruits to take initiation from one of the 80-odd GBC-elected ISKCON gurus. Thus, it directs the participants to take initiation from substitutes for Srila Prabhupada, while presenting reasons for why this is not actually necessary! In order to justify this contradictory advice, the course presents the usual gibberish which we regularly document coming from our supposedly spiritually realised ISKCON leaders, and this is presented overleaf.

the Blind

'Srila Prabhupada is the cause of all deviations'

"but when you really get into it, you really, really get into it, when you analyse everything that Prabhupada said... and this is the difficulty, that Prabhupada said so many things that whatever you want to believe there's a quote from Srila Prabhupada to back you up."

This statement by KMD blames Srila Prabhupada for being the cause of whatever deviant nonsense anyone wishes to believe, since he claims that "whatever you want to believe" is facilitated by Srila Prabhupada's teachings. As well as attacking Srila Prabhupada, the statement is manifestly untrue, since we have documented so many nonsense statements made by ISKCON leaders which are not supported at all by Srila Prabhupada. Indeed, this is the very reason for why they are forced to go outside Srila Prabhupada's teachings to prop up their false theories.

Siksa parampara

"Our parampara is actually a siksa parampara"

And here is a case in point proving the point just made - for there is no quote from Srila Prabhupada where he states that "our parampara is a siksa parampara", as KMD claims, despite his ridiculous belief that one can get a quote from Srila Prabhupada to state "whatever you want to believe".

No idea what is diksa

"diksha is really just a subservient function. It only happens once. It only happens on one day"

But *diksa* is not a one-time event, but actually a lifelong process:

"Diksa is the process by which one can awaken his transcendental knowledge and vanquish all reactions caused by sinful activity. A person expert in the study

of the revealed scriptures knows this process as diksa."

(*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Madhya-līla*, 15.108)

This reveals a gross ignorance of even basic Vaisnava philosophy, with a course specifically on *diksa* having no idea what *diksa* is – confusing the initiation ceremony with the process of *diksa*!

Bogus Vaisnava history

"Madhvacarya who comes in our line of course, [...] he gave initiation in a large area. As we moved on into history, the next great Vaisnava acarya who came in line – Ramanuja."

Ramanujacarya did not come after Madhvacarya, but hundreds of years before: **"they are coming from very old time. [...] Similarly, Ramanujacarya about eleven hundred years; Madhvacarya about seven hundred years."** (Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 14/4/72)

So the ignorance of fundamental Vaisnava philosophy just seen, is compounded with ignorance of even basic Vaisnava history.

Guru is relative

"So when you accept someone as a spiritual master, for you he's a pure devotee. He may not be for the rest of us in the room."

This relativisation of the spiritual master, whereby he is only considered a pure devotee for some persons, is condemned, for he has to be considered a pure devotee by everyone, if he is a bona fide spiritual master:

"That person is a resident of hell who considers the Deity worshiped in the temple to be stone or wood, who considers the spiritual master an ordinary man, and who thinks that the body of a Vaisnava fully dedicated to the service of the Lord belongs to the material modes of nature."

(*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Antya-līla*, 4:191)

And if he is not a pure devotee, then he should not be con-

sidered so:

"The Lord herein confirms that if one is overestimated, glorification is just another form of blasphemy. In this way He protests this so-called offensive statement."

(*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Madhya-līla*, 10.182)

Hence, this relativisation of the spiritual master will mean that some party will be engaging in a serious offence, depending on whether the person in question is actually pure or not.

Increasing non-existent list!

"So there is no rubber-stamped, certified persons who are ISKCON gurus. [...] There is no list actually. And these days the list is increasing and increasing and increasing, as the concept of diksa guru changes slightly to fit in with really what it's always been in Vedic culture."

a) This statement by KMD claims that there are no persons who are authorised ISKCON gurus. Yet, KMD himself is one of a limited number of certified ISKCON gurus:

"HG Kripamoya prabhu is authorized to give diksa initiation in ISKCON."

(Prahlaḍananda Swami, 5/4/2011)

b) KMD also contradictorily claims that there is no list of ISKCON gurus, but that it is also increasing. How can something which does not exist, be increasing!?

Guru is not a post

"So within ISKCON right now there are probably 80 gurus, and it's not a post."

Srila Prabhupada states the position of guru is a post:

"guru is not a, so cheap post that everyone can become guru."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 19/12/1970)

Gopi imagination

"Now it is pure imagination that each and every one of us, when we go back to the spiritual world

will be gopis."

This statement by KMD cautions us that it is "imagination" to think that one may be a *gopi* even in the spiritual world. Yet, ISKCON promotes the fictional novel *Sudha-bhakti Cintamani*, which required ISKCON guru HH Sivarama Swami to imagine being a *gopi* even while he was still present in the material world!

Conclusion

This "Guru-disciple" course is delivered by those proclaiming themselves to be experts on *guru-tattva* for those who are ignorant on the subject.

a) Yet, it directs participants to prepare for initiation from a GBC-elected guru hoaxter as a substitute for Srila Prabhupada, even though its own reasoning shows this is a false course of action.

b) In attempting to reconcile this contradictory stance, it displays shocking ignorance of the very basics of *guru-tattva*.

Srila Prabhupada describes such a scenario as the blind leading the blind:

"suffering persons sometimes pose themselves as leaders of the people, and the unfortunate followers are put into further disadvantages under such so-called leadership. This is like a blind man's leading another blind man to fall into a ditch."

(*Srimad Bhagavatam*, 3.9.8, purport)

The course also graphically illustrates two points which we have been demonstrating consistently in our publications:

1) That the evidence for Srila Prabhupada being ISKCON's *diksa* guru is so overwhelming, that even a course designed specifically to teach the opposite, cannot help but present this evidence!

2) Other than when it is presenting the IRM's arguments and conclusions, ISKCON's leadership talks nonsensical gibberish.

GBC's *Ritvik* Philosophy

The IRM's success is evidenced by BTP now regularly presenting documentation of ISKCON adopting the IRM's position. Thus, the debate is no longer about who is correct, but only over how long it will take ISKCON to start implementing in practice what they are already agreeing with verbally. Below, we detail a lecture given by GBC member **Hari Vilasa Das ("HVD")** in Mayapur at the start of the GBC meetings on 21/2/2012. All quotes in the shaded panels are from the said lecture, and from start to finish HVD presents the same position as that of the IRM.

Srila Prabhupada: The *diksa* guru of ISKCON

"For us the most significant *acarya* in our lives is His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. So by glorifying Prabhupada all auspiciousness comes into our lives. Actually it is said, *saksad-dharmitvena samasta-sastraih* – [...] Therefore we should remember the spiritual master and at least three times a day we should offer our humble obeisances to our spiritual master."

The *Sri Sri Gurv-asataka* prayers are meant to be sung in glorification of one's spiritual master, and all Prabhupada disciples sing them to Srila Prabhupada every morning. HVD speaks of them being used by everyone in ISKCON to glorify Srila Prabhupada as the spiritual master in the same manner. One significant point, which is repeated throughout his lecture, is that HVD makes no distinction between himself and anyone else in ISKCON ("we/us") whenever he refers to the bona fide "spiritual master" and Srila Prabhupada. Thus, he does not distinguish between Srila Prabhupada's relationship with himself as his spiritual master, which is as his *diksa* guru, and Srila Prabhupada's relationship with everyone else in ISKCON.

Srila Prabhupada: The bona fide spiritual master

"First of all it is very difficult to find a bona fide spiritual master. [...] Only to one who has unflinching faith in guru and Krishna are the imports of the Vedas revealed. Therefore it is said you follow this and you will attain perfection in this life. This is what we are doing. We have chosen Prabhupada. We have chosen Prabhupada's books and we have chosen Prabhupada's standards."

The scriptures tell us that we must find and have faith in the bona fide spiritual master. HVD states here that this personality is Srila Prabhupada.

Srila Prabhupada: The spiritual master we must please

"So this is essential in spiritual life – pleasing the spiritual master and following the order of the spiritual master [...] The highest threshold of authority in our movement is *sadhu-sastra-guru-vakya*. In other words understanding the *sadhu* and the *sastras* through the words of the spiritual master or pure devotee. We are very fortunate. Imagine if there was one tape of Jesus Christ or Mohamed speaking. That would be worth millions and millions of dollars. Everyone will be very anxious to hear it. But we have thousands and thousands of tapes of Srila Prabhupada speaking. And he is a genuine pure devotee and we have his books, we have his letters, we have his conversations therefore *nityam bhagavata-sevaya* [SB 1.2.18] We can go on."

HVD names Srila Prabhupada as the bona fide spiritual master whom one has to please in order to advance in spiritual life. Interestingly, HVD also compares Srila Prabhupada's position to Jesus and Muhammed, and also he states that Srila Prabhupada is the "person *bhagavata*" who can be served

by us – "*nityam bhagavata-sevaya*". This latter point is significant since it is argued by guru hoax proponents that the need to serve the person *bhagavata* must refer to a physically present "living" guru.

Srila Prabhupada: The spiritual master who liberates us

"Then he said anyone who is the servant of the Lord is even better. That is why we are trying to serve Prabhupada every day. [...] only by serving the lotus feet of the spiritual master can we make spiritual advancement. Unless one serves the spiritual master and the *acaryas* he cannot be liberated."

HVD states that one must serve the spiritual master to be liberated, and mentions that this is Srila Prabhupada.

Devotional service is hearing and serving Srila Prabhupada

"By hearing these transcendental messages given to us by Srila Prabhupada and he has distilled the conclusions of all the great Vaisnava *acaryas* we become purified within. And by engaging in his service and regularly hearing and chanting all inauspicious things in our hearts are destroyed almost to nil. [...] This is the process of devotional service."

HVD bases the whole process of devotional service only around the need to hear and serve Srila Prabhupada – not anyone else.

Srila Prabhupada trains us

"Prabhupada is trying to train us to become *panditah sama-darsinah* – have equal vision so when we look at the person we don't see the body we see the soul, more than that we see the soul's connection to Krishna."

Although it is claimed that we require a "living" ISKCON GBC guru because the guru needs to "train" us, HVD states that Srila Prabhupada fulfils this function.

IRM's POP

"And he gave us so many books. It would take us many lifetimes to read them and understand them. So we don't have to read any other books. These books contain all knowledge."

HVD here agrees with the POP (Prabhupada-Only Paradigm) model put forward by the IRM, which means we should accept as our authority only the directly recorded words of Srila Prabhupada.

ISKCON "guru" defined as any senior devotee

"That appreciation leads to a taste for *sadhu sanga*, and in the taste for *sadhu sanga* we develop strong desire to get initiated and strictly follow Prabhupada's instructions and through that association, especially accepting mentors, all unfavourable things in our lives are purified one by one."

HVD clarifies that the ISKCON entity who conducts initiations is no more than a "mentor", which is the same relationship that pre-'77 Prabhupada disciples – many of whom never even met Srila Prabhupada – had with other God-brothers who helped them in Krishna consciousness.

Conclusion

HVD, through detailing the role and function of Srila Prabhupada in the life of every ISKCON devotee, makes it clear that only accepting, glorifying, serving, pleasing, following, and hearing Srila Prabhupada as the bona fide spiritual master of ISKCON is required to practise devotional service and be liberated. No mention is made of the need for the ISKCON GBC "guru", other than at most as merely a type of teacher. Thus HVD agrees with the IRM that Srila Prabhupada, and not the ISKCON GBC guru, is giving *diksa*.

BTP Interactive

Disciple appreciates guru exposé

“Thanks for all the amazing work you all have done. I would like to receive your publications regularly. I have also read The Final Order and am very impressed with your work. You have dissected this issue to perfection. I congratulate you on a masterpiece.

Your work has opened my eyes to the incredible hoax that has been pulled over our eyes. The Guru issue is without doubt the single most important and misunderstood truth. Srila Prabhupada's books are meant to be the law books for this unfortunate age we are in and his society is supposed to be the unified mission to bring light into this dark age. What a shocking thing it is that immediately on Srila Prabhupada's departure his society was hijacked by ruthless and ambitious, power hungry, so-called disciples.

I appreciate very much the incredible work that you have done and are still doing prabhujī, all glories to your service. I support your work 100% and hope I can be in touch with you regularly and play a part. Thanks again for your courageous and irrefutable exposé on this most crucial subject.

I am reading the book you sent me on Sivarama Swami and it's a work of genius, prabhū. I don't say this to inflate your ego. I am really amazed at your abilities.

I am a disciple of Sivarama Swami and I just wonder how such a dedicated and strict sadhaka can be so wrong about this most fundamental point. Any ideas? I'm wishing you a long and prosperous life and I hope we see the reform of ISKCON in our lifetime. Thanks for all your service to Srila Prabhupada and to all the devotees. I look forward to hearing from you.”

- Sundarananda Das, Queensland, Australia

Editor replies:

Thank you for your appreciation. In the last issue we cover-



100 Deviations:
The life and teachings of
His Holiness Sivarama Swami



“A work of genius”
- Disciple of HH Sivarama Swami
100 Deviations:
The life and teachings of
His Holiness Sivarama Swami,
available free of charge by
writing to: irm@iskconirm.com
- Ed.

ed the case of members of the Gaudiya Matha who were no less “dedicated and strict”, but who were also wrong on the same fundamental point regarding the spiritual master's instructions for how the society should continue after his disappearance. Srila Prabhupada explains that this happens when one becomes overcome by the desire to occupy the post of guru:

“And as soon as he learns the Guru Maharaja is dead, ‘Now I am so advanced that I can kill my guru and I become guru.’ Then he's finished.”

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, 16/8/1976)

And once such a personal motivation enters, it is not possible to understand Krishna consciousness philosophy:

“As soon as personal motivation comes in it is not possible for one to understand our Krishna Consciousness philosophy.”

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 21/9/1970)

ISKCON France writes to IRM France

The following letter is from Gaudamandala Das, who is the Temple President of ISKCON New Mayapura in France, and was written to the French IRM. Our response is interspersed between the author's statements below:

“I appreciate the fact that you are willing to establish Srila Prabhupada as he should be!”

Thank you for recognising the fact that all the IRM is trying to do is establish Srila Prabhupada “as he should be!” It is heartening that you have recognised the folly of other ISKCON leaders who falsely propagate nonsense that we are trying to destroy ISKCON. A good example was your fellow Temple President of ISKCON Bhaktivedanta Manor in the UK who claimed:

“IRM is seeking to destroy ISKCON based upon their own interpretation of Srila Prabhupada's instructions.”

(Letter from Gauri Das, former ISKCON Temple President, 18/12/2004)

However, it was Gauri Das who was himself later removed from his post after having been found guilty of contributing to harming the lives of children through physically abusing them:

“Gauri das is found to be responsible for inappropriate and excessive corporeal punishment, a behavior contrary to ISKCON policy and Vaisnava behavior.”

(Official Statement, ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection, 14/7/2008)

“The only thing is that you should do it your own way by having your own action and positive preaching.”

Please rest assured that we are definitely having our “own action” in ensuring that no one is cheated - by spreading the truth about Srila Prabhupada's teachings being misrepresented. And helping people follow Srila Prabhupada correctly

is the most positive preaching one can do, because, without it, there is no spiritual life!

“Srila Prabhupada is on the absolute platform and unless you have been empowered and personally instructed by him or his representatives, then this is not your duty to reform ISKCON!”

You will be happy to know that both Srila Prabhupada and those whom you accept as his representatives have endorsed what we are doing. Srila Prabhupada states:

“Unfortunately, when the acarya disappears, rogues and non-devotees take advantage and immediately begin to introduce unauthorized principles in the name of so-called svamis, yogis, philanthropists, welfare workers and so on. [...] The acarya, the authorized representative of the Supreme Lord, establishes these principles, but when he disappears, things once again become disordered. The perfect disciples of the acarya try to relieve the situation by sincerely following the instructions of the spiritual master.”

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 4.28.48, purport)

Some of these “instructions of the spiritual master” which must be followed are:

“Our business is to point out who is not a saint.”

(Srila Prabhupada Morning Walk, 10/4/1974)

“If a man is a thief and if people are warned that he is a thief, that is truth. Although sometimes the truth is unpalatable, one should not refrain from speaking it. Truthfulness demands that the facts be presented as they are for the benefit of others. That is the definition of truth.”

(Bhagavad-gita As It Is, 10.4-5, purport)

And here is a statement from an ISKCON leader and guru whom you consider to be Srila Prabhupada's representative, who urges us to protest against those who are deviating in any way from Srila

BTP Interactive (continued)

Prabhupada's instructions:

"Srila Prabhupada did say we should keep the Acarya in the center. [...] If one of his followers, who happens to have the duty of initiating in his ISKCON society, undermines or minimizes the instructions found in his books and lectures then how can we expect a sincere ISKCON devotee not to protest, even if the one minimizing him happens to have given him initiation?"

(HH Trivikrama Swami, "Dandavats" website, 18/6/2007)

"Srila Prabhupada is taking care personally of 'his ISKCON'. If you do not believe this, then how valuable is your faith with him?"

Yes, he is taking care via inspiring devotees to take the necessary action where required. You believe this since you are a temple president who is taking practical action to take care of your temple, even though you also believe Srila Prabhupada is "taking care personally" of it. You are collecting donations, managing devotees, preaching, ensuring the buildings are maintained etc. You are not sleeping all day just expecting Srila Prabhupada "to take care personally". So you and I both believe that Srila Prabhupada is "taking care personally of his ISKCON" by inspiring the devotees to follow his orders.

"On the positive side, ISKCON is not the only Vaisnava branch and Srila Prabhupada is certainly happy with your effort to spread Krishna consciousness and not happy the way you point the faults repeatedly in his disciples! [...] Unless you drop down this 'finding fault mentality', you are not welcome to New Mayapura!"

Again, it is significant to note that you accept that we are spreading Krishna consciousness, rather than trying to "destroy ISKCON" as other ISKCON leaders have claimed. Of course, in faulting

us for what you claim is unnecessary fault-finding, you yourself are pointing out what you believe are our faults. So how can you claim it is incorrect to point out the faults of another? That would be self-contradictory and hypocritical. Also, instead of trying to correct us for accurately pointing out where others are deviating, you should be correcting those who are actually deviating! It makes no sense to tolerate deviants while only taking action against those who are exposing the same deviants. These are the actions of those committed to covering up the truth – not those who wish to live the truth.

"Happy new 2012 in Srila Prabhupada service! Please forward this letter to Krishnakant prabhu!"

Thank you very much.

Another French devotee writes

"I stumbled upon your site through my research. Thank you very much for this beautiful magazine, I have carefully read it, and I've really enjoyed reading the magazine even if it deals with a grim subject. I have the same position and I support you. I would be really interested to receive the other issues and the document The Final Order. I think that it is useful to draw the attention of devotees on this and I sincerely hope that your work will bring an awareness among some and a real back-to-basics of what must be truly the ISKCON movement.

I have known Srila Prabhupada since a long time but for the reasons explained in the magazine, I have to say that I was very reluctant to join the movement. So I am very happy to know that people like you exist.

You must know that I am very happy to be in touch with you and I sincerely hope to keep this contact. Awaiting your reply. Haribol."

- Helene Benoit, Sisco, France (translated from French)

Not satisfied to remain in ignorance

"I cannot understand how once presented with the facts and truth people choose to remain ignorant. I don't get it. It's like they want to be fools. Thank you for all the great work you are doing exposing these deviants."

- Madhumangala Das, New Orleans, USA

"ISKCON is basically our only hope for us conditioned souls. When Prabhupada handed ISKCON over, it was pure.

Now due to deviations from his instructions, we need to fast-track its reform. Thank you for making us see the truth, however difficult it may be to initially digest. Jai Srila Prabhupada!"

- Jivananda Das, Durban, South Africa

"I want to know more about Truth...thank you. Hari Bol."

- Amerita Jati, Jakarta, Indonesia

"I would like to know the reality."

- Ganasri-Aruna Das, Navadvipa, India

"I like to know the reality and truth."

- Tapan Dhar, Sikkim, India

"It appears that the final order has been hidden by ISKCON. Please give me a copy and advice."

- Nakul Kinikar, Solapur, India

Editor replies:

Thanks to the IRM, Srila Prabhupada's orders are no longer hidden but propagated widely all over the world in many languages. The truth can only be hidden for so long – eventually it has to come out.

Is criticism sadhana-bhakti?

"You are always engaging your time just to criticize others and always finding fault with others! Do you really have time to do your sadhana-bhakti as Srila Prabhupad instructs us to do?"

- Sailaja Devi Dasi, Vacoas, Mauritius

Editor replies:

Srila Prabhupada's instructions in regards to *sadhana-bhakti* (regulated devotional service) are as follows:

"The regulative principles means that you don't manufacture anything. Regulative principle means authorized – as they are mentioned in the authorized scriptures and as it is confirmed by the spiritual master. Because we do not know. When it is confirmed by the spiritual master, yes, it is right. [...] We cannot follow an upstart, manufacturing some song, manufacturing some ideas. We cannot follow that. What is authorized song, we shall sing. What is authorized method, we shall follow. Sadhu-guru-sastra-vakya. Sadhu and guru means on the basis of sastra. And sastra means the statements of sadhu and guru. Therefore sadhu and guru and sastra, they are identical. So they must be corroborated. If somebody's sadhu is speaking against sastra, then he's not sadhu. If somebody's guru, if he's going against sastra, then he's not guru. And sastra means the original guru and sadhu. [...] So sadhu-guru-sastra-vakya, tinete kariya aikya. So this is sadhana-bhakti. We must take instruction from the spiritual master."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 13/11/1972)

Therefore, in order to be correctly engaged in *sadhana-bhakti*, we must be fully knowledgeable of Srila Prabhupada's true teachings so we do not get misled by deviant gurus and deviant practices. BTP actually leads the way in this regard, continually exposing unauthorised manufactured practices propagated by false gurus which are not in line with Srila Prabhupada's instructions. Consequently, BTP is actually evidence of good *sadhana-bhakti* practice, since it is a manifestation of being knowledgeable about Srila Prabhupada's correct teachings, which are essential in order to practise *sadhana-bhakti* correctly.

Indeed, it is because of performing correct *sadhana* that we

BTP Interactive (continued)

have the spiritual inspiration to spend our time glorifying Srila Prabhupada by fighting for his true position as ISKCON's guru. We are defending him from misrepresentations and usurpation and he is victorious against these opposing elements:

Harikesa: "You so completely destroy the opposition, it's very hard to say anything more."

Srila Prabhupada: "Yes. That you have to prove. You can eulogize your Guru Maharaja, but you have to learn it and face the public and be strong to defend yourself. That is success. Not by praising your Guru Maharaja. You'll praise your Guru Maharaja. That is not very difficult. But be victorious to the opposing elements. Then you will praise your Guru Maharaja nicely. At home, you can praise your Guru Maharaja, and Guru Maharaja be satisfied, "Oh, my disciples are praising me." That is not very... That is good. Respectful. That is the qualification. But you have to fight. Then your Guru Maharaja will be glorified."

(Room Conversation, 26/12/1975)

Indeed, if those who have thus far been featured in *BTP* deviating from Srila Prabhupada's instructions had good *sadhana-bhakti* practice, then they would have not been featured in the first place. Because then they would have been knowledgeable of Srila Prabhupada's teachings and their actions would have matched Srila Prabhupada's teachings, and therefore, there would have been no deviations on their part to report.

Thus, as is usually the case with the IRM, the reality is the exact opposite of what our detractors claim!

Who can give pure association?

"Hare Krishna, I want to know about ISKCON's present gurus' position. Whom should I approach for getting pure association?"

- Keshav Verma, Bangalore, India

Editor replies:

Srila Prabhupada, the *acarya* (guru) of ISKCON, is the person you should approach for getting pure association. In general, the ISKCON "gurus" themselves have no "living guru", but instead are depending on getting pure association from Srila Prabhupada. It is clearly illogical for ISKCON gurus to insist that we cannot get pure association from Srila Prabhupada, when they themselves are receiving it. Therefore, you can receive pure association with Srila Prabhupada, and that association is available in the same manner as it is available for the so-called ISKCON "gurus"; through his transcendental teachings and transcendental sound vibration, via his many books, tapes, videos, letters and conversations.

We can further note that most of the ISKCON gurus are *sannyasis* (those who have taken vows of celibacy and renunciation), and the minister for all *sannyasis* in ISKCON, HH Prahlananda Swami, claims that you will not get pure association from any of the ISKCON gurus, because none of them is pure:

"Such an uttama-adhikari Vaisnava is in perfect touch with the Supersoul and at every moment knows the Supreme Lord's desires."

('Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON', Prahlananda Swami, 2006).

"If the GBC Body sees someone as a self-effulgent acarya who is completely aware of the Supersoul and Srila Prabhupada's desires and instructions they can and should follow his/her instructions. No one so far has been seen in that category."

(Prahlananda Swami, Wed, 30 Aug 2006 14:32 +0300)

"To spread Krsna consciousness in the absence of an advanced uttama-adhikari Vaisnava, third-class and second-class Vai-

snava must follow the instructions of Srila Prabhupada and learn the art of cooperation."

('Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON', Prahlananda Swami, 2006)

So in conclusion, simply stay fixed at Srila Prabhupada's lotus feet and do not move from there.

Why controversy over Prabhupada?

"We are all Prabhupada's devotees so why there is controversy?"

- Bibek, Shaikupa, Bangladesh

Editor replies:

The root of the controversy lies in the non-application of the POP (Prabhupada-Only Paradigm) model. The IRM insists that Srila Prabhupada alone should be followed on the basis of his recorded instructions - the POP model. ISKCON, however, has developed its policies based on a variety of sources such as:

- Its interpretation of what "tradition" should be.
- Its interpretation of what Srila Prabhupada's "implied intent" is.
- Whatever the GBC decides (which in itself changes frequently).

Though ISKCON also claims to accept Srila Prabhupada's instructions as its guiding light, whenever they have not relied on them exclusively to guide their actions, deviation has occurred. We have, and are, documenting this extensively in our various magazine issues, papers and books. Indeed, so comprehensive and undeniable has this documentation been, that ISKCON's leaders themselves are now forced to agree with the IRM's position. For example, in *BTP* 33, we featured ISKCON guru HH Bhakti Vikash Swami agreeing in toto with an earlier *BTP* article where we had documented that ISKCON was deviating in every major sphere of operation. Additionally, we have continually documented ISKCON leaders engaging in philosophical climbdowns

aligning their positions with ours. The controversy, however, still occurs because, although ISKCON's leaders cannot defeat the IRM philosophically, and indeed are even agreeing with us in, due to their desires for PAD (Profit, Adoration and Distinction), they are unable to follow what they may agree is correct.

Bhakti in isolation

"Hari Bol. OM SHANTI, Dhanyawaad, thank you so very much for sending me the September issue of *BTP*. I just finished home puja when the post arrived. I immediately returned to my temple room to offer thanks for your publication and pray for the further success of your mission. Indeed, synonymous with Srila Prabhupada's mission of truth, honesty, integrity, love, as we live with the energy which the Lord has blessed us with in Hari Nama. May you continue to spread the truth of the glories of Lord Krishna, and perhaps could include a little few words on the practice of bhakti and so forth, for those of us who are living isolated from temples of any kind."

Thank you sincerely."

- Alex O'Gorman, County Wicklow, Ireland

Editor replies:

You are correct that the Lord has blessed us with *Hari Nama* (the Lord's Holy Names). Even if we are not situated in a temple, we can just as easily chant Hare Krishna and practise *bhakti-yoga* in our own homes. In our last issue we quoted Srila Prabhupada explaining that the biggest obstacle to advancing in *bhakti-yoga* is to disobey Srila Prabhupada:

"First offense is guror avajna, defying the authority of guru. This is the first offense. So one who is offensive, how he can make advance in chanting? He cannot make. Then everything is finished in the beginning. [...] can become advanced by chanting? That is also not possible."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 4/7/1974)

BTP Interactive (continued)

Therefore, BTP is endeavouring to provide the most practical assistance in the practice of *bhakti-yoga* by ensuring that Srila Prabhupada's authority and orders are obeyed. In that way we are ensuring that our attempts at practising *bhakti-yoga* will bear fruit. Otherwise "everything is finished in the beginning".

Prostitution

"The Krishna movement here has prostituted *bhakti-yoga* thoroughly. I wish to see your views on it."

- Randy Novak, Missouri, USA

Editor Replies:

Yes, we have documented the same for many years now. It is called the "Commercialisation of ISKCON", and here is just one of many articles which gives an overview of this phenomenon:

www.iskconirm.com/docs/webpages/commercialisation_of_iskcon.htm

Collapse of faith in GBC gurus

"I used to get your magazine and enjoyed 'everything' that it contained! Somehow or other I wandered away and now need to re-connect. My experience here in Vancouver with the devotees has completely collapsed. I can't say it clearer, they drank the Kool-Aid* that the GBC has been dishing out.

If I hear about Radhanath** one more time from some zoned out cult member, I'll be sick all over him. ENOUGH! If it wasn't for Prabhupada and the mercy he gave in abundance, we'd be dead or quite mad by now (so many are!).

All Glories To His Divine Grace! Thank You for ALL Your Work."

- Gary Paterson, Vancouver, Canada

*"Drinking the Kool-Aid" is a metaphorical reference to a cyanide-laced drink that was consumed by cult members in the infamous Jonestown mass suicide in Guyana in 1978.

**Radhanath Swami, an ISKCON guru.

IRM publications are for sharing with the ISKCON community

"I have received three editions of Back To Prabhupada and also 100 Contradictions of Bhakti Charu Swami. Thank you very, very much, I will be sharing this information with other devotees. My service here in Berkeley is to dress Lord Jagannath at the Berkeley temple. About half of the community here are ritviks, the other group is fanatical GBC followers.

Thank you for preventing offenses to Srila Prabhupada, and for Back To Prabhupada."

- Isvari Devi Dasi, California, USA

"Anita/Asti Shakti Dasi is a dear friend who wants to hear from Back To Prabhupada. Please keep up the good work."

- Bhakti Lila Dasi, California, USA

"I run a Krishna Consciousness room in a public free chat program for people to be introduced to the MP3 audio of the Bhagavad-gita As It Is, Nectar of Devotion, Teachings of Lord Caitanya, Srimad-Bhagavatam, and Sri Caitanya-caritamrta and sometimes I post your website along with other Krishna Consciousness websites. I may begin to read articles from your magazines in my chat room. May you reach the transcendental stage of chanting japa and sankirtan and that you be given grace, mercy, and peace multiplied from Lord Krishna and the last in parampara (discipic succession) of Vaishnava Acharya gurus, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. All glories to Sri Guru and Gauranga.

All glories to all pure devotees of Sri Bhagavan Krishna. And if you so desire, please offer up prayers for me."

- Rodrigo Alonso Bonfante, Georgia, USA

IRM publications in different languages

"Hare Krishna prabhu, you people are doing a very nice job. I want a HINDI copy of The Final Order."

- Ankit Sharma, Rajasthan, India

Editor replies:

Though *The Final Order* is available in book form in the following languages - English, Czech, French, Dutch, German, Russian, Serbian and Hungarian - there has been no Hindi printing. We have it posted, though, at: www.iskconirm.com/docs/pdf/TFO_Hindi.pdf

Further online editions are also available in Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese and Bengali on our website:

www.iskconirm.com

BTP directed by spiritual forces

"Hare Krishna. I have been receiving BTP magazine from past many months, or should I say years. It has been an eye opener and full of startling facts. I have been completely shaken by the content and exposure of some of the ISKCON devotees as gurus. You really are doing phenomenal work which I am sure is being directed by spiritual forces. Prabhupada himself must be so pleased by your cleansing act of the real ISKCON movement which Prabhupada gifted to us for the benefit of the fallen souls like me. Jai Srila Prabhupada!"

- Kumar Aabhijai, Uttaranchal, India

"Many thanks Krishnakant, and may the Divine Will of LORD KRISHNA and our dear SRILA PRABHUPADA continue to empower and guide you in the great and vital divine service you have taken on. I KNOW that TOTAL SUCCESS is ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED! HARE KRISHNA!"

- Bhakta Michael Eden, New South Wales, Australia

BTP's message getting through

"If you are attached to a particular saint, if you surrender to him inwardly, if you love him, he reciprocates. Diksa or no diksa, it doesn't matter. They only want the devotee to be genuine." (Page 38, Samadhis in Vrndavan by Mahanidhi Swami).

One thing I like about this state-

ment by Mahanidhi Swami, so I can be attached to a particular saintly person inwardly and be genuine, so the saintly person will reciprocate. Initiation or not it does not matter, this is very powerful. However, chapter 6 of the GBC Laws [under "deviant philosophies"] states that one who states that he can get diksa from Srila Prabhupada is a deviant, so I guess you can go to any saintly person in the parampara, even the 80 or so sannyasis in ISKCON today, but not Srila Prabhupada, because there is GBC Law that this is deviant. How saaaaa...d."

- Balgopal Das, Gauranga Jewellers, Durban, South Africa

Editor replies:

We completely agree with the sentiments expressed here by Balgopal Das, that it is very sad that the GBC forbids one from accepting Srila Prabhupada as one's guru. It is heartening to also note that previously Balgopal prabhu has written to us defending ISKCON guru HH Bhakti Charu Swami, as featured in BTP 27. But now he is writing defending Srila Prabhupada! Thus, slowly but surely, BTP's message is having an effect.

BTP enlightens

"I have read your introduction to this issue (BTP 32) with great joy. Finally, I am hearing your succinct, balanced, honest and very simple summary of the truth. I am overjoyed that the 'witch hunt' is over and we are settling down to real business. Srila Prabhupada always spoke directly, very deeply and in very few words managed to convey universes of meaning. That is Krsna Consciousness. Everything else I heard him say was direct quotation from sastra, patient dealing with our silly questions, condemnation of demonic oligarchs, joy in arriving in South Africa.

Unfortunately, I am still struggling to understand the workings of the material world, struggling to keep to my initiation vows. Getting

BTP Interactive (continued)

there slowly, but all the more enlivened by BTP and your valiant and unstinting efforts.

Your successful enlightenment is spreading farther than you realise. Demon doubts will be banished. There is no viable alternative to humanity's release from ignorance, pain, conflict (I could go on and on...), other than to follow the instructions of our beloved spiritual master.

Your obedient servant,"

- Rocani Devi Dasi (founding member, ISKCON South Africa, 1973), Liopetri, Cyprus

"This magazine will give me spiritual awakening."

- Dr. Krishna Kant Shiromani, Ontario, Canada

"It is a very important magazine for my simple life. It can give me spiritual knowledge."

- Thakur Das Biswas, Dhaka, Bangladesh

"Thank you very much for sending me issue no. 26 of BTP, it was very enlivening to read. Especially inspiring was Srila Prabhupada's mission statement; "CED (Challenge, Expose and Defeat)" and also your brilliant reply to the voted-in (by 2/3 majority) guru proponent by quoting Bhagavad-gita (16.19-20) that envious demons in the garb of religious propagandists shall be thrown into the darkest regions of hell. Jaya Srila Prabhupada!"

- Sambhu Das, Emmaboda, Sweden

"This enriches us, especially me. It can help us know the truth, know what is peace."

- Sreoshi Goswami, Kolkata, India

"I am Nikhil. I am studying in 10th standard. Dear sir, I have read many books and I like it very much and I have written an exam on Krishna which was held in our school. And your books give me information and I like it. Thank you sir."

- Nikhil Chandras Arukar, Karnataka, India

BTP answers concerns

"Haribol. I just read your POP (Prabhupada-Only Paradigm – Ed.) pages, in the recent BTP, and find them enlivening. Thanks for answering my concerns about read-

ing other Vaisnava literature. Sometimes we criticize Jayadvaita for re-writing Prabhupada's books, yet we read Vaisnava literature translated by someone other than Srila Prabhupada. It puzzles me how we cannot see the contradiction. Also, you have clearly shown that reading past acaryas' books is against Prabhupada's wishes. Of course we will misconstrue the details. Many of us can't even figure out that you don't elect gurus!!! Very, very nice publication. With appreciation, your Godbrother"

- Mahasana Das, Florida, USA

BTP saves lives!

"I myself am a witness and victim of the 1990s, when the Harikeśa (one of ISKCON's fallen gurus – Ed.) zone collapsed and new gurus and temple presidents came in. This trauma has been following me for years. It's great to know Prabhupada is and will remain the only true dikṣa guru. It's good you guys exist."

- Todorovic Sinisa, Uelsen, Germany (translated from German)

"IRM is doing a great job. It is like a family doctor, now the present leaders know their disease. They are covering and making a big show only. They have developed ahankara (false ego). But when your medicine and propaganda flows continuously and strongly they will get a chance to take, some to be purified. Then that is real victory to you and all the devotees of ISKCON. We can never be a single strong, large group unless there is one spiritual master, spread all over the world with many, many representatives for a long time to come. Jai Srila Prabhupad. Hare Krishna."

- Aruna Chaitanya Dasa, Udipi, India

"This book changed my life."

- Vijay Kumar Bhardali, Jalandhar, India

"Thanks for exposing the "sad" truth that must be known, covering it will rot and smell and contaminate/kill everything around."

- D.P. Das, New South Wales, Australia

BTP brings great happiness

"Many months ago I begged you for a copy and/or copies of BACK TO PRABHUPADA. Every day I checked my mail. 'O when o when will that day be mine?' Finally, 4 copies arrived!! I am very pleased. Thank you so much prabhus. All glories to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada."

- Devaki-Nandana Das, Manitoba, Canada

"Hare Krishna!!! I am extremely happy to be a part of the IRM which is striving relentlessly to restore back the lost glory of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada and his ISKCON. I am desperately waiting to see that day when ISKCON will be brought back to where it was with Srila Prabhupada as its one and only guru. Hare Krishna!!!"

- Dr. Sanjeevi Bharadwaj, Chennai, India

"Another glorious BTP issue."

Thank you. BTP and IRM are making significant progresses. I do trust IRM. The nescient nonsense re guru is defeated. Other nescient nonsenses will also be defeated. Wish you continued success. Enclosed 20 euros."

- Svarupa Damodara Das, Cavan, Ireland

"I am appreciating all of the wonderful work you have done for Srila Prabhupada by soundly defeating the GBC and Gaudiya Matha. I am an admirer of such accomplishments. Please send me (especially) a copy of The Final Order. I have never had one yet. I would be very appreciative. Thank you very much for this. Haribol."

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada. Jai Srila Prabhupada!!!"

- Vidura Das, California, USA

"You are doing A VERY commendable job to re-establish faith in ISKCON."

- Apurva Girish, Lucknow, India

"Please accept my humble obeisances. Prabhu I have read many issues of your magazine. It sounds good."

- Tonoo Ananduth, Vacoas, Mauritius

"Prabhupada is a mahatma. His teachings and Vedic lessons are im-

mortal and will help humanity to survive."

- Rambhujan Beka, Vacoas, Mauritius

"I'm looking forward to receiving the magazine...thanks for all of your wonderful service:)"

- Laurianne MacMillan, Prince Edward Island, Canada

"Thanks a lot for sending free colourful magazines. The contents are just like Dr. Kim Knott writes - "the profound issues it raises demand consideration at all levels". Really respect your non-stop principled stand on guru-tattva, although it invites opposition from Gaudiya-Matha and ISKCON."

- J. Srinivas, Klang, Malaysia

"Thank you kindly for your good work and donated literature :)"

- Martin Smith, Bournemouth, England

"Thank you very much. All glories to your service. Hare Kṛṣṇa."

- Simhesvara Das, Washington, USA

"Haribol Prabhus. You are performing a fabulous job in the name of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada. Please continue to promote the world's greatest, Srila Prabhupada. Thank you. Haribol!"

- Tika Saran Singh, Richards Bay, South Africa

"I think the IRM is a great movement and I appreciate all your hard work in trying to preach Krishna Consciousness. Hare Krishna!"

- Roseller Hallasgo, California, USA

"Thank you for keeping Srila Prabhupada's original works around. Hare Kṛṣṇa."

- Arthur Gagnon, Massachusetts, USA

"May Srila Prabhupada shower you and your team with lots of blessings for laying bare the guru hoax. I request a hard copy of The Final Order (English). Many thanks."

- V. Shankar, Bangalore, India

"Thank you very much for your service."

- Vasudeva Das, Alachua, USA

"Thank you for all the work you have done to preserve the honour of His Divine Grace. Long may you continue to expose the fake evils of ISKCON."

- Steve Hughes, Newcastle, England

“They Won’t Admit That ‘I Am Defeated.’”

For almost 20 years now, we have been printing various literatures which have proven conclusively that Srila Prabhupada's orders established himself as the *diksa* guru for ISKCON, and that his orders in this regard were thwarted by various guru hoaxes. The GBC has been unable to counter the evidence presented, but has still continued with its guru hoax in practice (the evidence for all this can easily be viewed on our website, www.iskconirm.com). Since Srila Prabhupada's orders have not convinced ISKCON's leaders, in recent years we have made it even easier for them to accept the truth, by simply presenting their own statements in which they agree with the IRM's position. This agreement has been documented particularly in *BTP* Special Issue 2, the many regular climbdowns featured in virtually every *BTP* issue, as well as the opening chapters in our “100 Contradictions” and “100 Deviations” books. Indeed, in this *BTP* issue alone, most of our articles present evidence of ISKCON leaders agreeing with the IRM's position. In the “Blind leading the blind” article on pages 4-5, we even present the spectacle of ISKCON's leaders presenting the IRM's position in a course where they are actually preparing candidates to enter the guru hoax! This behaviour demonstrates:

- a) A ridiculous obstinacy by ISKCON's leaders against accepting the truth even in the face of overwhelming evidence - evidence which the same leaders themselves are presenting, and
- b) A phenomenon, in turn, of the “blind leading the blind”, whereby the bewildered leaders mislead their followers.

Below we present Srila Prabhupada speaking out about such behaviour, with all emphases in the quotes added.

Blind leading the blind

“So these rascals should be stopped. Speaking all lies, propaganda. Let him go to hell, I don't mind. But why they are misleading others? That is the greatest harm they have done. We attack them only for this reason. Otherwise, individually, you go to hell. Who cares for you? But in the name of science and becoming a scientist, you are misleading others. Andha yathandhaih. You are blind rascal, and you are leading other blind men. Why you are doing these harmful activities? You are admitting that you are blindly believing. So you are blind. You remain blind if you don't accept knowledge. Why you are trying to lead other blind men? Let them have knowledge.”

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, 31/3/1977)

“In Srimad-Bhagavatam they are also described as andha yathandhair upaniyamanah. These rascals are themselves blind, and yet they are leading others who are blind. When people follow such leaders, they suffer unlimited pains in the future.”

(Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Madhya-līla, 24.249)

“The Godless leaders of the society are blind themselves and their followers are also blind. So blind men leading the blind has no meaning.”

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 5/2/1970)

As we have documented in this issue and elsewhere, ISKCON's leaders, just like the scientists described

here, are misleading their followers with the guru hoax. In the next section, Srila Prabhupada begins by mentioning how this “blind leading the blind” results from the reluctance to accept defeat.

Won't admit defeat

“That's all. Andha yathandhair upaniyamanah (“Blind leading the Blind”) [SB 7.5.31]. Anyway he has admitted, “I do not know.” That is sufficient defeat for him. But they are shameless. In spite of being defeated, they won't admit that “I am defeated.” Not gentlemen. Formerly between two learned scholars there will be argument. If one is defeated... Just like Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya. As soon as he became defeated, he became His disciple. That's all. That was the system. Not that we go on arguing for hours, and one is defeated; still, he remains the same. No. If you are defeated, then you must accept the other party as your master. That was the system.”

(Srila Prabhupada Morning Walk, 2/5/1973)

“Because an enemy, even though he is enemy, if he is learned, he will not make injustice. That he cannot. Any learned scholar cannot make any injustice. So he admitted his defeat, because he is learned scholar. That is scholarship. Not that... Just like Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya. He argued with Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu as a scholar. But when

he became defeated, he accepted His discipleship. This was the method, that two persons may argue, but one who is defeated, he must become his disciple. Not that simply waste time arguing and no conclusion.”

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 8/1/1974)

“There may be talks on philosophy, but if one party is defeated, the defeated person, he must be disciple of the winning, victorious party [...] We have to follow the Vedic principle that either remain without guru... And if you want to make a guru, first of all be convinced that “He is fit to become my guru.””

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 22/5/1976)

Though ISKCON's leaders have been defeated by Srila Prabhupada's statements, which would oblige everyone to become Srila Prabhupada's disciples, ironically they respond to their philosophical defeat by still attempting to get everyone to become their disciples through the guru hoax.

Rascal obstinacy

“Obstinate rascals. Not only rascal, but obstinate rascal. Their only remedy is shoe. That's all. Obstinacy. There is a story about obstinacy. Two friends were talking. One friend said, “This is cut by a scissor.” So another friend says, “No, it is cut by the knife.” So then there was fight. So the friend who was talking of the knife, he was strong enough. So he captured him:

“You accept it is scissor, otherwise I'll throw you in the water.” So other, “No, it is scissor,” so he threw him in the water. So when he was dying, he was doing like this. (Prabhupada makes a hand motion like scissor) (laughter). So he is obstinate rascal.”

(Srila Prabhupada Morning Walk, 12/8/1976)

“Obstinate. That scissors philosophy. There is no other way to understand it, but he'll not accept. That is his misfortune. Mudha. Boka. And our problem is that these bokas, rascals, they are leading the society. And they are suffering. Andha yathandhair upaniyamanah [SB 7.5.31]. He's blind. We are also blind. And they're leading us. What will be our consequence? [...] These rascals will not allow to understand real thing. That is the position. Otherwise what we have got to do with these rascals? But because they are taking some position, the whole populace is misguided.”

(Srila Prabhupada Morning Walk, 1/2/1977)

“And defeat they are taking as success. Just like these rascal scientists, they could not go and settle in the moon planet. Still, they are saying, “It is success. It is success.” [...] These bogus things are going on.”

(Srila Prabhupada Morning Walk, 9/12/1973)

And there cannot be a more egregious example of “rascal obstinacy” than ISKCON's leaders refusing to accept and follow the conclusions they themselves present!

Quotes, Notes and News (QNN)

Guru approves IRM guru-busting

It has been claimed by guru hoax supporters that the work of the IRM in exposing false gurus is a negative activity, rather than spiritually inspiring, since all it does is destroy people's faith in anything spiritual. Now ISKCON guru **Kripamoya Das ("KMD")** has directly refuted such an objection. Whilst commenting on a film project which exposed a fake guru, he stated:

"Some have said that even making this film would have destroyed the fledgling faith of those who fell for their 'guru.' That once caught out – and caught out in film before the eyes of the world – they would be much less likely to repose their trust in anyone else. I can understand that objection, and I have decades of personal experience of it. However, I feel that the merit of this successful duping of the American public will ultimately be that western culture itself becomes more circumspect about trusting someone because of exotic appearances only. Hopefully people who want to know about gurus will turn to the source literature on the subject and become able to discern genuine manifestations of spirituality from superficial appearances."

(KMD, "Fake guru makes true movie", *The Vaishnava Voice*, 24/3/2012)

We completely agree that exposing false gurus will merely assist spiritual seekers to become more discerning in selecting a real guru. Thus, the work of the IRM will hopefully lead people back to the lotus feet of the genuine guru, Srila Prabhupada.

KMD also states:

"The result is a sad indictment of our times – when the external appearances of a 'guru' coupled with the spiritual longings of under-informed and eas-

ily-pleased seekers can produce an ardent following of would-be disciples in just a short time. [...] The problem is that most people do not know the symptoms of a guru, his external and internal characteristics. They consequently tend to project their spiritual aspirations onto someone who matches their prior notions of what such a spiritual person should be."

Again, this perfectly describes the situation that we find today in ISKCON, whereby gurus are considered to be self-realised representatives of Srila Prabhupada, despite being constantly exposed by us as spouting contradictory gibberish.

Thus, we have an ISKCON guru directly endorsing the need to expose false gurus for the benefit of everyone. And this is all the IRM has ever done. To date, no one has challenged the veracity of what we have documented in BTP. Instead, we have simply been criticised that such an activity constitutes "*Vaisnava aparadha*" or is merely "faultfinding" etc. But, now we have an ISKCON guru going on record stating that such "fault-finding" of fake "gurus" should be done, and the IRM is happy to oblige!

Who is fallen?

Since our book exposé *100 Deviations: The Life and Teachings of HH Sivarama Swami* is composed of the statements of **HH Sivarama Swami ("SRS")** himself, we correctly wrote on the book's back cover that his followers cannot reject this book because:

"they cannot argue that they refuse to accept the words emanating from the 'lotus mouths' of persons whom they accept as being as good as God."

However, one should never underestimate the desperation of a mind-control cult.

Following the widespread distribution of the Hungarian language edition of this book through-

out Hungary, ISKCON authorities ordered those who received the book to hand it in for collection, warning that if they dared to read the book then they are to be considered "fallen" and will "go to hell". So, if a person who merely reads the words of HH Sivarama Swami is considered fallen, how fallen would that make the very person who actually authored those words – HH Sivarama Swami!? Thus, the followers of HH Sivarama Swami must now need to be protected, not from "ritviks", but from the teachings of HH Sivarama Swami himself! To reiterate - never underestimate the desperation of a mind-control cult!

Contradicting Srila Prabhupada

On page 5 we exposed the ridiculous attempt by ISKCON guru **HG Kripamoya Das ("KMD")** to blame Srila Prabhupada for any deviant philosophy one may espouse, wherein KMD claims that one can get a statement from Srila Prabhupada to support "whatever you want to believe". It can be easily seen that such a theory is false, as we have produced whole books where the statements of ISKCON gurus are shown to be contradicted, rather than supported, by the teachings of Srila Prabhupada. For example, there is no statement from Srila Prabhupada stating that the worship of Lord Siva and other demigods should be introduced in ISKCON temples. One of the leaders in spouting nonsense, which is not at all supported by Srila Prabhupada's teachings, is **HH Bhakti Charu Swami ("BCS")**. It seems as though every time he opens his mouth he makes some statement not supported by Srila Prabhupada. Now, worried that devotees may directly start taking shelter of Srila Prabhupada's books without joining the ISKCON guru hoax cult, he has claimed:

"By reading scriptures only

without devotee association, one becomes an impersonalist." (BCS *Istagosthi*, 16/3/2012, BCS speaking in Jessore, Bangladesh)

Yes, one should associate with genuine devotees, and Srila Prabhupada does recommend this:

"everyone in the human form of life should be induced to associate with devotees."

(*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta*, *Antya-lila*, 1.32, purport)

But nowhere does Srila Prabhupada teach that just the very act of reading scriptures alone, such as *Bhagavad-gita* and *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, will result in one becoming an impersonalist. On the contrary, Srila Prabhupada states that doing such an activity is very beneficial:

"In my books the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness is explained fully so if there is anything you do not understand, then you simply have to read again and again. By reading daily the knowledge will be revealed to you and by this process your spiritual life will develop."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 22/11/1974)

If simply by reading the scriptures as presented by Srila Prabhupada leads to one's spiritual life developing, then clearly such an activity cannot also lead to one turning into an impersonalist!

Academic book highlights IRM

Yet another academic publication has highlighted the sterling work of the IRM and BTP in fighting the guru hoax. "*The Hare Krishna Movement - the Institutionalisation of alternative religion*", has been authored by Martin Farek, who is the chairman of the Department for the Study of Religions at Pardubice University in the Czech Republic. It mentions how the IRM has taken the lead in presenting an alternative to the current guru system within ISKCON, and also notes that the influence of its preaching is growing throughout ISKCON.

ISKCON's Parallel World 1: May 28th Conversation

There is a true story of a Japanese soldier, Hiroo Onoda, who refused to surrender for 29 years after the end of World War II, remaining in the jungles of the Philippines, because he refused to accept that the war had actually ended! He was thus living in his own parallel world of false reality in which World War II was still continuing, side by side with the real world in which the war had ended. When facts have been established and accepted by all sides without dispute, this is the reality, and those who accept these facts live in the real world. However, if one either pretends these facts do not exist or chooses to remain oblivious to them, then one has created an illusory parallel world for oneself. Thus, side by side, these two worlds co-exist, one based on knowledge and facts and the other on illusion and ignorance. On the next 2 pages we present examples of such parallel worlds occurring in ISKCON.

Below are statements from Chaitanya Charana Das ("CCD") from an article called "Is the *Ritvika* claim true?",¹ excerpts from which are presented in the shaded box below. CCD is a member of ISKCON's *Sastric* advisory council, the GBC's official "brain", and an Associate Editor of *Back To Godhead*, ISKCON's official magazine.

The false Tamala

"In this conversation are indelibly included the words 'granddisciple', 'regular gurus' and 'disciple of my disciple', which all strongly show that he is continuing the regular way of initiation. [...] he wanted his disciples to continue the *parampara* by becoming regular gurus, giving initiations and accepting disciples. Srila Prabhupada reconfirmed these instructions on 28 May, 1977 [...] The authority in this case, according to Speech Act Theory, would be Tamala Krishna Goswami [to whom Prabhupada

was speaking]. Srila Prabhupada meant what those in the room say he meant. Period. This is, by the way, Philosophy, not Grammar! And Tamal Krishna Maharaja as well as all the other devotees present in the room unanimously state that they understood Srila Prabhupada to be continuing the standard guru *parampara* system."

CCD here claims that in the May 28, 1977 conversation Srila Prabhupada is speaking of his disciples becoming successor *diksa* gurus. And his claimed evidence for why his explanation of the conversation above is correct is that HH Tamala Krishna Goswami ("TKG") and others involved in the conversation say so. So CCD has constructed a version of reality supposedly based on whatever TKG and others say it is. For the purposes of illustrating ISKCON's parallel world we do not need to even discuss whether what TKG and others claim is actually the truth. We only need to demonstrate that even this constructed version of reality does not match its own construction!

The real Tamala

Contrary to CCD's imagination, here is TKG's detailed explanation of his understanding of the May 28th conversation:

"What actually happened was that Prabhupada mentioned that he might be appointing some *ritviks*, so the GBC met for various reasons and they went to Prabhupada - five or six of us. We asked him, 'Srila Prabhupada, after your departure, if we accept disciples, whose disciples will they be, your disciples or mine?' Later on there was a piled-up list for people to get initiated, and it was jammed-up. I said, 'Srila Prabhupada, you once mentioned about *ritviks*. [...] So Prabhupada said, 'All right, I will appoint so many...' and he started to name them and he did name

them. He made it very clear that they're his disciples. At that point it was very clear in my mind that they were his disciples. [...] And that's all that it was, and it was never any more than that. If it had been more than that, you can bet your bottom dollar that Prabhupada would have spoken for days and hours and weeks on end about how to set up this thing with the gurus, [...] Obviously, Srila Prabhupada felt that of all the people, these people are particularly qualified. So it stands to reason that after Prabhupada's departure, they would go on, if they so desired, to initiate."

(HH Tamala Krishna Goswami, 3/12/80, quoted in *ISKCON Journal* (1990), GBC Executive Committee)

The underlined parts, reproduced from a transcript published by the GBC Executive Committee, highlight the key chain of events in which TKG links the *ritvik* appointment spoken about in the May 28th conversation as being an appointment which was only for initiating on Srila Prabhupada's behalf, with these appointees having no order from Srila Prabhupada to take on the status of gurus who would initiate their own disciples. Rather, if at all they were to become gurus, it would only be by virtue of their own desire to become gurus and due to being qualified for that position. Thus according to TKG, Srila Prabhupada using the terms "grand-disciple", "regular guru" and "disciple of my disciple" does not constitute any order for the *ritviks* to change their status to becoming *diksa* gurus.

The real Satsvarupa

We noted that in addition to TKG, CCD also invoked his faith in whatever is claimed by the "other devotees" who were involved in this conversation. The only other person who speaks to Srila Prabhupada in this conversation

is Satsvarupa Das ("SD"). And his understanding also matches that of the "real" Tamala:

"Prabhupada had picked out eleven devotees to initiate on his behalf when he was too ill to initiate. In 1978 in a GBC meeting, they decided that those people should become the first initiating gurus in ISKCON. So I became initiating guru and suddenly had to accept disciples in big numbers"

(Satsvarupa's "Vyasa-Puja" address, 3/12/2011)

SD here makes it clear that the *ritviks* turned into gurus, not because of any "disciple of my disciple" order from Srila Prabhupada in the May 28th conversation, but only because the "GBC decided" this should be the case.

Conclusion

We have previously pointed out how those who seek to defend the guru hoax have no option but to take shelter of the words "grand-disciple", "regular guru" and "disciple of my disciple" in the May 28, 1977 conversation, as being evidence that Srila Prabhupada authorised guru successors. Otherwise, they are left with no order from Srila Prabhupada authorising his succession as ISKCON's *diksa* guru. Yet, the 2 people whom we are told are the supreme authorities for what this conversation must mean, themselves accept that these words do not constitute any authority for the *ritviks* to have turned into *diksa* gurus. Thus, these guru hoax supporters have created a parallel world inhabited by their own false TKG and false SD. And they remain trapped in their own fantasy world because they refuse to step into the real world of documented facts which BTP and the IRM are presenting.

¹ A full point for point refutation of this article can be read here:

http://www.iskconirm.com/docs/webpages/Chaitanya_Carana_Das.html

ISKCON's Parallel World 2: Chewing the Chewed

In the previous article we presented an example of a parallel world which relied on constructing a false representation of what certain persons are supposed to have said. Below we present an example which relies on simply choosing to remain in ignorance of reality due to restricting oneself from accessing real world information.

Chewing the chewed

If an argument has been rebutted, then representing it will yield no value, since it has already been defeated. Rather, to do so would be similar to the concept of chewing the chewed which characterizes material life:

"punah punas carvita-carvananam (SB 7.5.30). If one picks up a piece of sugarcane which has already been chewed, he is a fool. We must know that the juice has already been taken out of that sugarcane. What will one get by chewing it?"

(Teachings of Lord Kapila, Chapter 7, verse 12)

However, if one lives in a parallel world where information is severely restricted, then one can present false, already defeated arguments, since in this parallel world, this limited information will be the only reality. The excerpts from the internet newsletter of ISKCON guru hoaxer, GBC elected guru **HG Sankarsana Das ("SAD")**, dated 6/2/2012, shown below in the shaded boxes, illustrate such a world.

Already defeated

What is ritvik philosophy? Who practices it?

*Your unworthy servant,
Padma Charana Das*

(SAD): Answer: An Envious Denial of Disciplic Succession

Ritvik philosophy is the incorrect idea that Srila Prabhupada wanted the disciplic succession to end

with him, that after him there would be no more initiating spiritual masters. This is clearly not the case because Srila Prabhupada told us that after his departure the new devotees who join his movement would become the disciples of his disciples. In this regard Srila Prabhupada stated in an arrival lecture in Los Angeles on 18 May 1972:

"So we have got this message from Krishna, from Caitanya Mahaprabhu, from the six Goswamis, later on, Bhaktivinode Thakur, Bhaktisiddhanta Thakur. And we are trying our bit also to distribute this knowledge. Now, tenth, eleventh, twelfth. My Guru Maharaja is tenth from Caitanya Mahaprabhu, I am eleventh, you are the twelfth. So distribute this knowledge. People are suffering."

SAD here presents a quote that BTP had already demonstrated 5 years ago does not state what SAD claims:

"Srila Prabhupada simply states that since he is the eleventh, and since he has disciples, they automatically become the 12th generation coming from Caitanya Mahaprabhu. That Srila Prabhupada had disciples who have become the 12th generation is not disputed by anyone. What is non-existent is the order from Srila Prabhupada asking his disciples to initiate their own disciples, thus producing a 13th generation."

(BTP 15, "Phantom Orders part 2")

Neither does Srila Prabhupada state that devotees will become the "disciples of his disciples" as SAD also falsely claims. But, the questioner will not know that the reality of SAD's claims were already exposed many years ago because he chooses to accept as his reality the parallel world he lives in with SAD, where SAD recycles arguments which in the real world have already been debunked.

Contradictory reality

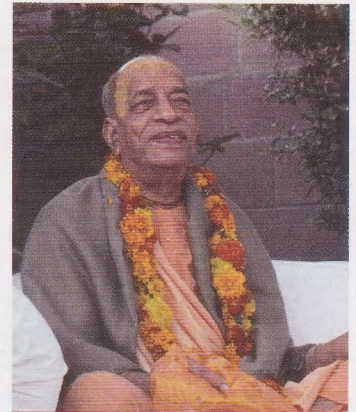
SAD: Ritvik philosophy is being currently propounded by envious persons who do not want to accept the leadership system set up by Srila Prabhupada for managing the Krishna consciousness movement.

Continuing with his answer, SAD makes a statement which would reveal that he was completely unqualified to act as the bona fide spiritual master he claims he is. But this would only be the case if the questioner stepped outside his parallel world and accessed the other statements SAD has made. For SAD also stated:

"I have no doubt learned a lot about proper Vaisnava dealings through my association with him (BTP Editor), and I feel that I can continue to grow as a Vaisnava through my association with him. Even though he and I stand on two sides of an issue we stand united in our desire to serve and please Srila Prabhupada. This is why in spite of our differences I consider his association to be a great blessing. [...] Because he is chanting Hare Krishna I also accept that he is spiritual. He did correct me on a point of etiquette, and I accepted his correction. I still consider the association of anyone who is trying to serve Srila Prabhupada as a blessing even if I disagree with them. How many people on this planet are willing to dedicate their lives to Srila Prabhupada?"

(SAD, 27/1/2004 & 1/2/2005)

So according to SAD, "ritviks" are both envious, and also: spiritual; dedicating their lives to serving Srila Prabhupada; offering association which is a blessing; and helping us grow as Vaisnavas! SAD's 180 degree flip-flop reveals him to be someone who has no idea what he is talking about. Either he is lying now, or he was lying just a few years ago, and he cannot be trust-



Parallel world created to avoid surrender to Srila Prabhupada

ed to not lie again. Either way, he is certainly not a bona fide spiritual master consistently speaking the absolute truth. But none of this will come to light for his followers while they remain entrapped within their own parallel world, refusing to ever step out of it and come into the real world.

Conclusion

The mind-control cult which today's ISKCON is, uses various means such as warning against committing "*Vaisnava aparadha*" (spiritual offences) and the threat of excommunication, to ensure its members remain firmly entrapped in these false parallel worlds, which is the very definition of being in *maya* or illusion:

"We are entrapped by the false reality, *maya*."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 16/11/1973)

The irony is that ISKCON was set up specifically to expose and preach against such illusory worlds – not construct them! Vaisnavas are supposed to be above even *brahmanas*, which means they transcend all the modes of material nature, including the mode of goodness. Yet, we have demonstrated that due to their intense attachment to remaining trapped in illusory parallel worlds, primarily to avoid surrendering to Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON members have not even removed themselves from the mode of ignorance.

May 28th Conversation: Another Climbdown

We detailed on page 14 how guru hoax supporters refuse to accept the reality regarding the contents of the May 28, 1977 conversation even in the face of the very evidence they claim to accept. This is done out of desperation, because once a person accepts that the officiating *acaryas/ritviks* spoken of in the May 28th conversation are *not* being ordered to initiate their own disciples, then:

1. Not only does the basis for the beginning of The Great Guru Hoax, Part 1 – that the 11 *ritviks* were authorized to turn into *diksa* gurus – collapse;
2. But more importantly, the 11 *ritviks* would have to *remain* as *ritviks* since now there is no order for them to terminate acting as *ritviks* on Srila Prabhupada's departure, which in turn, means that we have a permanent *ritvik* system of initiation for ISKCON.

The 2 points above are collectively referenced in terms of "Modifications A and B" in *The Final Order*. In this connection, we detail yet another climb-down from one of ISKCON's leaders, in which he aligns his position closer to that of the IRM. In *BTP* 3, we highlighted the following fabrication claimed by guru hoaxer **HH Hridayananda Das Goswami** in his official biography:

"A little before departing from this world on November of 1977, His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada asked Srila Acharyadeva, as well as ten other prominent disciples, to accept the role of spiritual masters and initiate disciples to give continuity to the disciplic succession starting with the Supreme Lord, Krishna."

(From the biography on the official website of Hridayananda das Goswami, <http://www.gopala.com/hdg/>, archived April 2, 2004)

The above fiction was based on assuming that the May 28th conversation states that the 11 appointed officiating *acaryas/ritviks* were empowered to initiate their own disciples via the words: "*grand-disciple/disciple of my disciple/regular guru*". In an astonishing reversal, the same biography (now moved to a different website address <http://www.acharyadeva.com/about/acharyadeva.html>) has now been *changed* so that it is made clear that instead of Srila Prabhupada selecting 11 disciples to be *diksa* gurus, as claimed above, Srila Prabhupada only selected 11 *ritviks*:

"Shortly before leaving this world in November of 1977, Srila Prabhupada asked Acharyadeva and ten other prominent disciples, to initiate on his behalf:"

This is a 180-degree shift in position. They have changed from stating that Srila Prabhupada asked 11 persons to be *diksa* gurus to now stating that he asked them to act as *ritviks* and initiate on his behalf. Indeed, the biography now claims that the May 28th conversation does not refer to these 11 *ritviks* at all – never mind speaking of them initiating their own disciples! Instead, it is claimed that the May 28th conversation merely refers in general to everyone eventually becoming a *diksa* guru:

"Srila Prabhupada made many statements that confirm his explicit, consistent view that his disciples and subsequent followers would eventually initiate their own disciples into the disciplic succession, including a conversation with members of the GBC in May 1977."

So the same short May 28th conversation has now magically been transformed into a brand new conversation whereby:

- 11 *ritviks* instead of 11 *diksa* gurus selected.
- Every disciple and subsequent follower referred to, rather than just the appointed *ritviks*.
- *Diksa* guruship only supposed to happen "eventually" instead of on Srila Prabhupada's departure.

But even the new version is simply another fiction, because there is no mention in the May 28th conversation of every disciple and subsequent follower eventually becoming a *diksa* guru either. Rather, the May 28th conversation speaks only of officiating *acaryas/ritviks* being appointed to conduct initiations for "particularly" after Srila Prabhupada's departure, with the authorisation to become *diksa* gurus being conditional on Srila Prabhupada giving an order for them ("*When I order you become guru he becomes regular guru*") – an order which was never given.

This massive climbdown further confirms that there is no basis for guru hoax supporters continuing to assert that Srila Prabhupada authorised 11 *ritviks* to turn into *diksa* gurus on his departure via the words "*grand-disciple/disciple of my disciple/regular guru*". For the original guru hoaxers themselves have abandoned this belief. In this issue alone we present 3 of the original 11 *ritviks* – Tamala Krishna Goswami, Satsvarupa Das and Hridayananda Das Goswami – stating this abandonment even whilst acting in their capacity as GBC-authorised gurus.

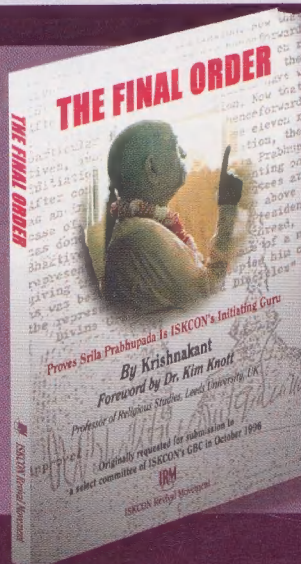
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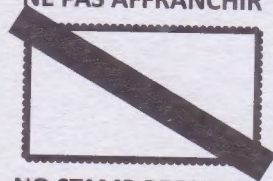
From the Foreword by Professor Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies, Leeds University, UK

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